

## Horse Department.

OUR WORK ON MORGAN HORSES is progressing rapidly, but there are yet many pedigrees that should be entered here whose pedigrees we have not received. We want full pedigrees and history of every meritorious stallion descended in direct male line from Justin Morgan, with name and residence of the breeder of such horse and of the several dams. Blank forms for this information will be furnished free by addressing THE REGISTER, Middlebury, Vt. No fee is required for this registration.

It will be perceived that we are publishing a large amount of original information on trotting pedigrees, and historical matter on the early horses of this country, which cannot be obtained elsewhere; and we recommend to our patrons to PRESERVE THEIR FILES OF THE REGISTER, as they will form, with the full indexes thereto, a most valuable and available encyclopedia upon these matters. An index will also be supplied for the Literary Department.

### A VALUABLE WORK. HOW WALLACE GIVES ADDRESSES, ILLUSTRATED.

We have a number of times called attention to the fact that Mr. Wallace, in recording in the *Trotting Register* pedigrees not furnished and paid for by breeders or owners, carefully conceals the addresses of all persons connected with such horses, although pretending to give the same. This class of pedigrees of course includes most of the noted horses of the past as well as many trotters of the present day. To illustrate the character of the work we will give, as a specimen taken at random, what is recorded of the Highlanders in vol. 2, pages 240, 241, giving all that part of each pedigree that refers to breeders and owners and their places of residence.

First is Brown Highlander (Hunt's), a horse of much importance. He is given as "bred by Mr. Watson, Bucks county, Pa.; sold to Peter S. Schenck of N. J., and by him in the spring of 1831 to G. Drummond Hunt, Lexington, Ky."

Next comes Highlander (Parks). "Bred by James Parks, Scott Co., Ky.; owned by Rice H. Parks, same county."

Followed by Highlander (Scott's). "dam a chestnut mare bred by Col. Mead of Va. Bred by Robert Scott, Clark Co., Ky. Passed through the hands of William Coons and Jesse Winn, Thomas L. and Ed. Coons, and then back to Mr. Scott, his brother."

Highlander (Williams'). "Bred by Gen. John S. Williams, Montgomery Co., Ky.; now owned at Greenville, Ind."

Highlander (Smith's). "Bred by E. R. Smith, who kept him in Fayette Co., Ky., till 1854; sold to Butler Co., Ohio."

Highlander (Hedges', etc.). "Bred by Mr. Hedges, Bourbon Co., Ky."

Highlander (Black). "Bred by Jos. L. Downing, Fayette Co., Ky."

Highlander (Darnaby's). "Bred by G. D. Hunt, Fayette Co., Ky., sold to Ed. Shipp; passed through the hands of John Darnaby and Elisha J. Smith to his present owners in Mercer Co., Ky."

Here are eight consecutive pedigrees, giving the names of twenty different breeders and owners. Of these twenty, the address of one is given and that of nineteen is suppressed.

It was Talleyrand, or some other great master of diplomacy, who said that language was given to man for the purpose of concealing his thoughts. Profiting by this suggestion, Mr. Wallace seems to have proceeded upon the idea that the true object of a horse register is to conceal information. The method is unique and seems to be peculiar to John H. Wallace. No other author, so far as we have examined, has offered to the public a studbook purporting to give information which, in fact, was studiously withheld. Mr. Sanders, in the *Breeders' Trotting Stud Book*, has apparently given the fullest information at his command; Mr. Thompson, in his very creditable work on *Noted Maine Horses*, has done the same; and so with the other works on breeding, we think, without exception. Wallace alone "eats his cake and has it too"—sells his information to the public and keeps it to himself at the same time.

Of course this kind of work is done for an object. Without this furtive and track-covering method, Wallace would not have been able for a series of years to slip in his bogus pedigrees by scores if not by hundreds, without detection and effective exposure. With it he has been enabled to do this as well as to dispose of a large number of his paste-board covered volumes at from seven to ten dollars a-piece to a credulous public, who have only lately begun to discover the swindle.

### PEDIGREE HUNTING:

#### OR, THE WRAITH OF THE OLD GRAY MARE

BEING A TRUE HISTORY OF THE DAM OF ETHAN ALLEN.

Turning to the north, we followed a rough and rocky hill road to the humble dwelling of Moses Wells, a Frenchman who used to work for Warner Cook, who said that he was married in February, about 48 years ago, and went right to Warner Cook's to work the next March, and worked there eight or ten years. Before W. H. Cook came back Warner had a sorrel mare that Valorous used to drive; also a bay, he thought. Thinks there was no horse bought with the Abel Rising property; might have been a colt. Saw George Johnson have a gray mare; saw his brother, Hoyt, have her. There was a gray mare at Warner Cook's, but it was not this (Johnson) mare; didn't look like this one; light gray, rangy mare; don't know of her being lame; don't know but W. H. Cook took her home with him; don't know but he had

her when W. H. was there. He had quite a lumber job. I never see the mare after Holcomb had her."

Ascending a little farther by this unfrequented road, we passed into the valley where Hoyt Johnson lives, and called again at his house. Mrs. Johnson said:

"There were two William Bevin's, my uncle and my cousin; my cousin married his wife in Rutland. The horse that Geo. Johnson had of Rufus Rising, it is impressed on my mind that it was a very dark colored horse; I have seen the horse many times; I remember it well; it was a dark roan, a little grayish and very dark. Geo. Johnson had a span that ran in the pasture the year he sold this horse to Cook. I saw the horse George sold to Warner Cook soon after Cook got it; George stood in our door-yard when he rode by very fast, and George growled about the way Cook was using the horse he had sold him. It was not sorrel nor light gray. George spoke because he was very tender of his horses."

"I couldn't recommend William Bevin for truth; he was son of Joseph; their family was very different from ours; one son would steal everything he could. William was not very truthful."

"William Bevin's wife when he married her lived in the family of a man by the name of Fay. Her father was John Butters; my brother married his other daughter; after his daughter married William Bevin he came here and lived with them; after that my brother Clark married the other girl. William lived with his wife at Rutland a while and they had one child when they came here; they came here before I was married, quite a number of years; her father came here and Clark married his other daughter before I was married. Clark was married about four or five years before I was; it was all of four years, I think five; they had two children, sure. Butters had been here a year and a half or two years before Clark married his daughter."

"William Bevin had a good many horses; I don't remember any black one. Reuben, Ira and Warren Potter—that was all. Reuben used to have horses; he lived two years upon the Byington place in Hague; log house, a little ways from Rufus Rising's. I was not very large then. Mother used to hire the girls to spin. One year that they lived there was when my second girl, Lucinda, was a baby; they lived close by the Beaver marsh."

"William Bevin was born in June or July, 1800; there was only four or five weeks difference in age between him and my oldest brother. William Bevin's father-in-law was a poor man; one of his daughters kept house for him a while. Will Bevin was not married till he was of age. Butters was a very old man when he came here. Never heard him tell of going to Boston. He had had quite a family; three of them were buried up in his house. He had no property when he came here; he brought no horse nor nothing. He did not go back to Rutland at all. If Will Bevin had had a present of a horse from his father-in-law we should have been apt to know it."

"William Bevin had no horse when he came here. I did not know of his having one very young; think he had a span before I was married. He worked at Crane Pond."

HOYT JOHNSON.—"At Crane Pond William Bevin had a pair of bays, one of them spavined, a French beast; I was at work there at the time. He came here a number of years before I was married. Reuben Potter was always trading horses. I don't think he could have sold to Reuben Potter, not right off, for Reuben was not much older than my oldest boy. Reuben was the oldest, then Ira, then Warren. I presume the Potters had deal with Rufus Rising; he was in the same neighborhood and had a good deal of deal with poor people."

"I took the big gray mare that George Johnson had when he died, at the appraisal, twenty-five dollars. She was about twenty years old. George had owned her quite a while. I raised a colt from her. She was a big, good mare, a good stepper. George got her of a man in Queensbury, at the head of Lake George; she would weigh from ten to eleven hundred; sound, smart, head up. George had her ten or fifteen years; I kept her a little short of two years."

Mrs. JOHNSON.—"I don't remember when George got the gray mare. He raised several colts from her."

All think Reuben, Ira and Warren Potter fair men for veracity.

HOYT JOHNSON.—"I knew John Glazier well. He had a gray mare. The next year before I was married, in the fall of 1826, I drove this gray mare and a black one on a journey to Bennington, Vt. She was a good mare, rather dark gray, nine hundred to a thousand pounds, about fifteen hands, head and tail right up, an excellent traveler; she was young then, five or six years old, say. I think in a few years she got into Rufus Rising's hands. I never knew of Deacon John Hayford's having any horse; he used to have oxen; no horse, ever, I think. The black one was rather bigger than the gray, but not so gay. They thought the gray was as good a horse as there was in Hague. John Glazier had her two or three years or more. I don't know where he got her; she might have been the Bevin's filly. Rufus Rising married Deacon John Hayford's daughter, Rufus Rising got this mare from Glazier, that is pretty certain. Two Curtis brothers, David and Asahel, lived in the west part of old Hague, two or three miles from William Bevin's. Reuben Potter lived in Tuftonville; think he lived in Hague when I was married; his brother

lived here at the same time. The Curtis were here when I came. Asahel Curtis had a span of small gray horses, eight to nine hundred, well-built, chunked; folks would call them now-a-days French horses; stout-legged, well-proportioned every way, nice span; you couldn't get two any more alike. I think he got them about the time I was married. (1827). Think he bought them; they were the first horses I ever remember his having. Think he kept them till he sold off and went West. He had oxen before he had these horses; sold them and bought the horses; I never knew any other Curtis to have a horse team; they always had oxen."

"Reuben Potter owned a black and a gray horse at one time. Ira was a little boy when he owned them. I do not remember the Potters before I was married."

We drove down the now familiar road through the pine woods to the main highway, from which we turned north about a mile to the home of Bradford Catlin, born in 1812, who said:

"I used to work for W. H. Cook when he was using the gray mare, the first year that he had her. Ira Potter drove the mare logging that winter; he would tell things correct, I guess. I was twenty-one years old when I first worked for Warner Cook; worked about a year. He then had a span of dun mares which he raised; had a mare they called 'Old Mink,' light bay; had one, I guess, larger, a bay mare; don't know where he got her; guess he raised Old Mink. He did not have this gray mare then (1833). I did not work for Warner again; worked for W. H. one winter on the same place; it was a year or two before I was married; was married forty years ago; know he had the gray mare then and know he logged with her. William H. drove one team and Ira Potter drove one. I think they drove a black mare with the gray; I think W. H. drove the duns; don't think it was a black roan that was worked with the white; think it was black and not very large."

"I think Zeno Rising raised the gray mare. Reuben Potter used to drive this team, before he worked for Cook. It was called Zeno's team when he was driving it. Potter didn't tell me this was the same mare. The Cooks said they got her either of Potter or of Rising, I think. I don't know as she had a name. She had a bunch on her neck, under the mane."

"When I worked for W. H. Cook I thought she was considerably along in years; don't know whether she was spavined. Warner had a span of blacks he used to drive, along the last; they were black; one might have been the one that worked with the white—guess not, though. I guess Peterson bought the black pair. He lived here then; is in Michigan now."

"I don't remember George Johnson's having this mare; don't recollect about his teams."

"I guess Ira Potter was not as old as I, quite. Reuben, I think, was two or three years older than I. I never heard of Ambrose Potter; used to know William Bevin."

"Warner Cook bought Abel Rising out about the time I worked for him, Warner, (1833); I don't recollect whether any horses came with Abel's property."

(To be continued.)

### THE "ONLY COMPLETE AND AVAILABLE" ONCE MORE.

NEW YORK, March 1, 1886.

Editors *Turf, Field and Farm*.—A little less than a year ago, I addressed you a long communication upon J. H. Wallace's claim that his magazine contained the "only complete and available record of trotting and pacing performances," and by an exposure of his multitudinous and stupid errors in summaries of horse racing names began with the letter "A," so thoroughly demonstrated the worthlessness of his reports, if completeness and accuracy are desired, that any man in the world but himself would have followed my advice and taken down his sign. He kept it up, in regard to 1885, through all the issues of his magazine for 1885, serenely ignoring the fact that in his June number he felt himself forced to publish about 100 summaries that had never appeared in his "O. C. A." but were to be found in my Supplement for 1884, printed in March preceding, and which involved a number of important records of 2:30 or better. But his spite of his bragadoles, his eyes were partially opened and I give him credit for having really tried to make his summaries for 1885 correct, though not complete, for he avowedly rejected all in which his horse was not named, and he beset the economy leading him to make his only complete and available claim for 1885, renewed in his February, 1886, number, false by his own confession. He had the assistance of the brightest fly clerk in Mr. Vail's office through the year, he made additions to his clerical force, and when he says that he has "sought to make the indexes far more complete than ever before, and has this required time, money and labor," I do not doubt that he speaks, for himself, a sorrowful truth. He omitted to state that in his endeavor he had simply copied two more distinctive features of my publications. In his last year's index, for the first time, he undertook to individualize horses of common names, and this year he has partially copied my system of giving pedigrees, although, for reasons of economy or ignorance, he has confined himself to the sire, and has, also, adopted, or tried to adopt, my most valuable invention of attaching the best record of a horse to his name. As far as these matters go, he is welcome to follow my lead at the very respectful distance in the rear his works will always maintain when compared with mine. I repeat that I honestly give him credit for having tried to make his collection of summaries, in connection with their index, considered as an annual record of trotting and pacing performances, as perfect as possible. He has failed completely, as will be clearly demonstrated, and my object in exposing his failure is a double one, frankly avowed, viz.: in the first place to warn people from buying a very bad and deceiving book, his, and in the second place, to stimulate them to buy a really good and informing book, mine.

Not desiring to occupy an unreasonable amount of your space, the present exposition will be confined to Wallace's blunders in dealing with trotters and pacers with records of 2:30 or better whose names begin with the first two letters of the alphabet, as exemplified in the index for the performances of 1885. I select this class of horses because he is the greatest apostle of the 2:30 list, and believes himself, and has imbued others into believing, that he knows more about it than any other man in the world; and the earlier letters of the alphabet are selected because a little bird came and told me that particular pains was being taken at that end of the line in the office of the "only complete and available" for fear that Chester would be after them again. The antiquated compiler of alleged trotting statistics is so weak where he is strongest, that I prefer to make a holy show of him in that precise spot just now, though I may see him later elsewhere.

The entertainment will begin with a most astounding statement. The index to Wallace's compilation for "A" and "B" credits 125 trotters and pacers who performed in 1885 with records of 2:30 or better, and I shall show that in dealing with this comparatively small number of prominent horses he has been guilty of no less than 39 errors of fact, or omissions through ignorance or carelessness, embracing almost one-third of the list! I trust that every interested person will examine these specifications, and agree to present the first man who finds a misrepresentation in them, with a complete copy of my works, including the 1885 supplement. The blunders vary in grossness, but taken in the bulk they—well, let us see what they are:

1. Aaron R., b. g. pacer, 2:30, by Morgan Messenger. Wallace does not give his sire.

2. Allen Almont, b. m. 2:27½, by Hamlin's Almont, Jr. Wallace spells it, and persists in spelling it, Alleen Almont, although frequently informed that he is wrong. Her owner, R. F. Myers, writes me specifically that the mare is Allen Almont.

3. Alice M., m. m. 2:28, by Kilpatrick. Wallace has her a bay mare, without sire. My information as to her sire comes from her own owner, Hon. S. Duncan Lovelock, Sheldahl, N. Y., and from Roy T. A. Hendricks, Union Springs, N. Y. Kilpatrick is a son of Abwabaah Chert.

4. Alloghany Boy, m. h. 2:27½, by Wood's Hambletonian. Wallace gives him by Hambletonian, simply, by which the ordinary reader would understand Rysdyk's Hambletonian. The horse is properly credited in his fifth volume, but he does not intend to give away too much information in a cheap book.

5. Alvey, b. g. 2:19, by Volunteer. Wallace gives his record as 2:37, which was the best time he made in 1885. This famous old trotter has been owned for several years by Mr. Alexander Ross of Sherborn, N. Y. If Mr. Wallace had known this fact, he would doubtless have identified him with the fast Alvey, as he was entered in 1885 in Mr. Ross's name. It is impossible to make a satisfactory trotting and pacing record, unless you have special knowledge of horses, and their location and ownership, which Mr. Wallace appears to lack.

6. Almont general, b. g. 2:24½, by Hamlin's Almont, Jr. Wallace gives him as by Almont Pilot in the index, and by Almont, Jr., in his 2:30 table in the same number. His confiding readers can take their choice.

7. Almont, br. h. 2:24½, by wagon. Wallace has him as a bay stallion. His owner, Mr. Jay Beach, writes me that "Almont is a rich brown."

8. Amie King, ch. m. 2:28½, by Mambrino King. Wallace spells the name Amie King. Same fault as with Allen Almont.

9. Astral, br. m. 2:28½, by August Belmont. Wallace makes her a bay mare. Her owner, Mr. P. S. Tallent of Lexington, Ky., writes me that she is a brown, 16½ hands high.

10. Hay Charles, b. g. 2:28½. Wallace gives him without record, the reference being to page 309 of his *Monthly*.

11. Belle of Fitchburg, b. m. 2:30, by Paragon. Wallace gives no sire.

12. Belle Mahone, b. m. pacer, 2:24½, by Finch's St. Lawrence. Wallace gives her as by St. Lawrence, simply. Same fault as with Alloghany Boy.

13. Belle Wilson, b. m. 2:24½, by Mambrino Bruce. Wallace gives her record as 2:28½.

14. Benny, gr. g. pacer, 2:24, by Carcenaught. Wallace gives him as by Carcenaught, Jr.

15. Bessie M., br. m. 2:30, by Messenger Chert. Wallace gives no sire. My information is from her owner, Mr. A. B. Connings of Harrisburgh, Pa.

16. Big Ike, gr. g. 2:29½, by Yankee Bonner. Wallace gives him as by Nick Wall. His trainer and driver, Philo Sweet of Kalamazoo, Mich., writes me that he is by Yankee Bonner. He is owned by Mr. F. Campbell.

17. Bilson, br. g. 2:29½, by Abdallah Messenger. Wallace gives him as by Dean Swift (?). My information comes from his owner, Mr. George E. Clarke of Boston, Mass., his trainer and driver, Mr. T. D. Marsh, same place, and from the editor of the *Summerdale Journal*, Prince Edward's Island, in which locality the horse was raised.

18. Billy Barfoot, blk. g. 2:28½, by King Herod. Wallace gives his record as 2:30½.

19. Billy Boy, b. g. 2:26½, by Mambrino Temple. Wallace gives him as by Van Buren Patchen.

20. Billy Bunker, blk. g. pacer, 2:28, by Harry Clay. Wallace does not give his sire.

21. Billy D., ch. g. 2:26, by Daniel Lambert. Wallace gives him no record and no sire. He has long been owned by Mr. Harry McDonald of Providence, R. I., in whose name he trotted in his race last season. Similar case to Alvey, or perhaps this omission was on account of the sire, to spite Mr. Battell.

22. Billy F., b. g. pacer, 2:24½, by Land Pilot. Wallace has him by Land Pilot? (sic), and mixes his references with those belonging to Billy F., pacer, 2:35½, who belongs in Wisconsin.

23. Billy Ford, ch. g. 2:29½, by Mohawk Blondin. Wallace has his record, 2:29½.

24. Billy G., blk. g. pacer, 2:28, by Red Buck. Wallace makes his record 2:24 and omits his sire.

25. Billy M., b. g. pacer, 2:24½, by Clear Grit. Wallace gives him neither sire nor record.

26. Billy N., ch. g. pacer, 2:30. Wallace has his record 2:37½.

27. Billy R., b. g. 2:29½, by Clay Pilot. Wallace gives him no record.

28. Billy S., b. g. pacer, 2:14½, by Corbeau. Wallace gives him the alias of Corbeau, and no sire.

29. Black Cloud, Jr., blk. g. 2:25. Wallace makes him a brown stallion.

30. Black Jug, br. g. pacer, 2:43. Wallace gives his record as 2:27½, which is his trotting record, and should be so distinguished.

31. Black Nell, blk. m. 2:29½, by Phil Sheridan. Wallace makes her record 2:31, and omits her sire.

32. Blaine, blk. g. 2:28½, by Millman's Bell-founder. Wallace omits the sire. I cannot absolutely vouch for the correctness of this breeding, but it is a matter of common report and belief and rests upon a far better foundation than hundreds of pedigrees that Wallace has adopted.

33. Blanchard, b. g. 2:25½, by Daniel Lambert. Wallace gives him neither sire nor record, a case like that of Billy D., and it begins to look as if a general order had been issued that Daniel Lambert's name should not appear in the "only complete and available" in connection with a 2:30 performer, but I reckon no man would continue printing Mr. Wallace's name in the *Middlebury Register* all the same.

34. Boston Girl, b. m. 2:35½, by Von Moltke. Wallace makes this mare by Gideon. It has

been a disputed point, but the weight of evidence is altogether in favor of Von Moltke. He ought to be the Colonel Wood case in mind, and at least put a (?) after the Gideon. Frank Van Ness writes me that she is certainly by Von Moltke, and that Mr. France has her breeding in full.

35. Bronze, br. m. 2:21½, by Morgan Messenger. Wallace gives her no record.

36. Brown Billy, br. g. 2:25, by Corbeau. Wallace gives him as by Almont, and in his 2:30 table, same number, gives him as s. t. b. by Corbeau.

37. Brown Dick (R. F. W.), br. g. 2:24½, by Virginibus. Wallace gives this horse only under R. F. W., although he trotted several times as Brown Dick, omits his sire, and makes his record 2:38.

38. Busley, b. g. 2:29½, by Geo. Wilkes. Wallace spells this Busby. He is respectfully referred to the heading of the editorial columns of this paper for the correct orthography. I can assure him that Busby knows how to spell Wallace. He uses six letters, beginning with an "h" and ending with a "g."

The foregoing are the thirty-nine articles of the creed that Wallace's compilation is so full of errors as to be absolutely worthless. It is worse than worthless, it is dangerous; for breeders in making their catalogues, owners in making their entries to races, gentlemen in buying horses, are liable to be deceived by it to their very great detriment. There really ought to be a law to enjoin such publications. I do not believe there was ever before given to the world a publication claiming to be statistical so crammed with blunders and faults. They sleep over in nearly every line. And observe that my criticisms apply only to the most prominent horses. There are naturally far more errors among the comparatively unknown brigade. Nor have I dealt with any but questions of fact; the slipshod editing has been left untouched. Mr. Wallace has announced that he would publish the summary pages of his magazine, with an index, in a volume by themselves, and sell it as an annual record, his only object being to hurt Chester. Very well! I make him a present of all the information in this communication, and by its aid he can make a very good 2:30 list for 1885, as far as the first two letters of the alphabet are concerned. As for the rest of it, judge ye who have read.

I am a younger man than Mr. Wallace, but I have learned what he, apparently, has not in regard to compilations of this character—that there are just two things necessary to get your work right: first, you must know your business; second, you must do it yourself. I most deeply suspect him in regard to the first essential, and I have a sure thing on him in regard to the second, but if he could and did meet those two requirements, and if vigor was vouchsafed to him, and if he continued to copy my improvements, while of course he could never catch me, my start being too great, he might, about the year 1890, succeed in getting up as good an annual record of trotting and pacing events as my Supplement for 1885 will be, the index to which, I am happy to say, is now in the hands of the printers, and work left on it for me but proof reading, and will be ready by March 15, price \$2, sent only by mail on receipt of amount by

Yours respectfully,

WALTER T. CHESTER,  
P. O. BOX 1921,  
—Turf Field and Farm.

Mr. Walter T. Chester of New York, who writes the above letter, is the author of the "Complete Trotting and Pacing Record," now the acknowledged best authority extant. It is a book of about 1000 pages, clearly and closely printed on excellent paper and substantially bound in morocco. It contains summaries of all trotting and pacing contests of which a record was kept, from the earliest times down to the close of 1883; while the second annual supplement, now nearly ready, carries the work down to the end of last season. The winners are arranged alphabetically, the name of each horse followed by his description and best record, and pedigree when known, with summaries appended of all races which he won. The index of beaten horses is complete and is carefully prepared, as is also the index of sires.

This is a work of incredible labor conscientiously done and of the very highest merit. It includes the authentic racing history of about sixteen thousand trotters and pacers in a single volume.

The announcement of Mr. Wallace, which Mr. Chester justly criticises, is a statement that has been kept standing for years in Wallace's *Monthly*, as follows: "The only complete and available record of trotting and pacing performances is that furnished by the *Monthly*. No other is published in the world!"

There is only one way of accounting for Wallace's keeping that announcement in his magazine since the appearance of Mr. Chester's great work; and that is to assume that Mr. Wallace's pride and ambition point the same way as that of the teller of the fish stories, of whom this anecdote is told: He once regaled a company at a hotel with fishing reminiscences until a gentleman, a perfect stranger, arose and interrupted him with: "I want to say to you, sir, before I go, that you are the very biggest liar I ever had the misfortune to listen to." "Shake, stranger," exclaimed the narrator, advancing with beaming countenance and extended hand, "you know how to appreciate true merit if you are away from home."

### SUNDRY LETTERS.

A. P. DUTTON ON BLACK DOUGLAS.

RACINE, Wis., December 29, 1885.  
Editor *Register*.—Your letter of the 28th received. All the information that can be had here in reference to Black Douglas has been given E. P. Dickey of Racine, Wis., purchased the horse at some place in Illinois. He saw a lady ride the horse in a race and the horse won; time, 2:40. Dickey kept the horse four or five years and then sold him to Chet. Phillips of Delavan, Wis. Phillips sold the horse and he went to Minnesota, where he was alive two or three years ago. Douglas was 15½; as black as a crow, no white, weight, about 1000 lbs. He was an ugly horse and could be trotted only under saddle. He trotted under saddle at Janesville in 2:30; could trot in 2:30 if he did not get mad. None of his get while here showed any bad conduct. My mare from him never showed any bad temper or did a mean thing; and none of her colts have been bad ones. No horse on the track could show such style as Douglas.

Now as to breeding. After Dickey sold Douglas to Phillips, who is now dead, and my mare began to show good speed, I tried to get Douglas bred. One of his standing blacks was sent me. This said HUI's Vermont Black Hawk sire Douglas. Have always supposed it was a fact. Dickey says it was not so; that

the North Horse sire Douglas, and he was the best colt that Black Hawk ever sired. He says he knows it. The dam of Douglas, he says, was an Irish Bird Catcher mare. Can't tell you where or when the North Horse was bred.

If you direct a letter to Mr. Estabrook, Hiram, and say former owner of Black Douglas, Delavan, Colorado, you may get some reliable information about this horse. He knows more than any other man—so says Dickey.

A few years ago Douglas was gelded and became one of the finest road horses in Minnesota. If now alive he cannot be less than 25 to 30 years old.

If you find he was sired by the North Horse wish you would let me know, for he was a better horse than his sire, and I want to book my young naves correctly.

Twenty and thirty years ago and now are different times and modes with horses. More value is attached to descendants, and less men make it a business to get up pedigrees for a fee. It is a difficult matter to get a correct pedigree back twenty years.

I hope and expect to see a fine account of some of the Males of Racine's colts. Ally Bonine was soon to show up. The Male of Racine was and is a great mare. If kept on the turf she would have made 2:20 before this. Get a catalogue of Baker & Harrigan. I have a four-year-old stallion, Maid's exact move, and I think as much speed.

Yours truly,  
A. P. DUTTON.

### SECOND LETTER FROM ELBERT FLOYD-JONES, ESQ., ON DAM OF JUPITER.

78 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, Dec. 31, 1885.

JOSEPH BATTILL, Esq.

Dear Sir.—Your letter received and I regret that I cannot give you the desired information. The Bryant of whom I purchased Gypsy lived at that time at a place called New Bridge, in the town of Hamstead, L. I. He came there from Suffolk county, and as near as I can recollect, from either Comae or Northport. He only staid at New Bridge about two years and where he went from there I do not know. You must recollect that it is about 40 years since I purchased Gypsy; and I recollect perfectly that Bryant knew nothing at that time about the breeding of her dam. He told me that he bought her at Bull's Head, New York (now known as 24th st.) out of a drove of horses from Vermont and that he took her home and bred her to Almack. That was all he could tell me, and I think it would be impossible for you to find out more than this.